

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-11 are pending herein, claims 1, 10 and 11 being independent. By the amendment above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. A new claim 12 containing the limitations of original claim 7 as dependent from original claim 1, has been presented. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 12. Claims 2, 5 and 7 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

In the pending Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first para., as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second para., as allegedly indefinite; claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,793,618 (“Chan, *et al.*”) and claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Chan, *et al.* The Examiner indicated that claims 10 and 11 are allowable, and objected to claims 5, and 7-9 as depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if re-written in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of the claim(s) from which they depend.

In response, the applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 5, and canceled claim 5, thereby placing claim 1 in allowable form. Claim 7 has been canceled and re-presented in independent form as new claim 12, and so that claim, as well, is believed to be allowable. Original claim 4 has been amended to depend from new claim 12, thereby rendering that claim allowable. Claims 8 and 9 already depended from (allowed) claim 10, and so are believed to be allowable without amendment. Claim 2 has been canceled.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that this amendment places the claims in condition for allowance, based upon the Examiner’s position in the Final Office Action.

Additionally, the applicants wish to make of record art cited in the corresponding European Search Report, even though it is believed to be cumulative to the art of record herein, and so the instant Request for Continued Examination has been filed to ensure the consideration thereof.


There being no further grounds for objection or rejection, early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

A check in the amount \$200.00 is enclosed in payment for the addition of 1 new independent claim in excess of three. It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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